

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03826 090950Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CA-01 SCS-06 SY-05
A-01 OPR-02 /081 W
-----069180 090952Z /21

O P 090925Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8624
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3826

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 9, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

1. UNEASY CEASE-FIRE REMAINS IN EFFECT, STILL BROKEN ONLY BY
SCATTERED SMALL ARMY FIRE AND SHELLING BUT TENSION IS MOUNT-
ING AS RUMORS ABOUND OF AN IMMINENT CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE.
SNIPERS CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN ASHRAFIYAH, AN AR-RUMMANEH AND
NEAR COAST BRIDGE ACROSS THE BEIRUT RIVER. PHALANGE RADIO
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03826 090950Z

SAID THAT THE SNIPERS HAD KILLED FOUR PEOPLE ON JULY 8.

2. PHALANGE RADIO ON JULY 8 ALSO CLAIMED ISRAELI HELICOPTERS
HAD LANDED IN CAZA RASHAYYA, IN ARQUB AREA, BUT THIS REPORT
IS APPARENTLY COMPLETELY UNTRUE. NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO
A RELIABLE PHALANGE SOURCE, CHRISTIAN MILITIA FULLY EXPECT
ISRAELIS WILLINTERVENE TO HELP THEM. THE MILITIA REMAIN

UNBOWED AND STILL LOOKING FOR A FIGHT. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT SEVEN SHIPS HAD STEAMED NORTH AND UNLOADED MEN AT JUNAYAH ON JULY 7. (COMMENT: IF TRUE THE SHIPS MAY HAVE MERELY BEEN TRANSPORTING SUPPLIES AND CHRISTIAN MILITIA FROM THE SOUTH. WE STRONGLY DOUBT THEY UNLOADED ISRAELI TROOPS. END COMMENT.)

3. DESPITE EXPECTATIONS THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS WOULD WITHDRAW HIS RESIGNATION, PALACE SOURCES TOLD THE PRESS JULY 8 THAT IT WAS STILL "FROZEN". THE ENGLISH DAILY IKE ON JULY 9 SAID THE PRESIDENT WOULD ADDRESS THE NATION SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT FOURTY-EIGHT HOURS.

4. IN AN INTERVIEW CARRIED IN THE PARIS WEEKLY LE POINT, PHALANGE LEADER PIERRE GEAEYL SAID THAT HE WAS "CERTAIN THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN BEIRUT TOOK PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE CONTROL OF SYRIAN AUTHORITIES," AND THAT DESPITE EVERYTHING HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT "ASSAD IS AN HONEST MAN." GEMAYEL ALSO SAID THAT LEBANON SHOULD EQUIP ITSELF WITH AN ARMY AND POLICE FORCE DURING THE THREE MONTHS REMAINING OF THE ADF'S MANDATE IN LEBANON.

5. MEANWHILE, NLP LEADER, CAMILLE CHAMOUN ADDRESSED HIS SECOND MESSAGE TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE (THE FIRST WAS ON JULY 6). HE SAID, "I ASK NOTHING OF YOU--NEITHER AID NOR HELP," BUT ONLY THAT A "THOUGHT BE SPARED FOR US, THE LEBANESE, IN EVERY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03826 090950Z

FRENCH HOME."

6. THE GREEK CATHOLIC PATRIARCH, MAXIMO HAKIM, PRAISED THE SYRIANS FOR THEIR "HONORABLE MISSION" IN LEBANON DURING A VISIT TO DAMASCUS ON JULY 8, ACCORDING TO AFP. HE ALSO, "REJECTED CATEGORICALLY SEEING ISRAEL IMPOSE ITSELF AS THE PROTECTOR OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE REGION." PARKER

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